



**MARCH TIP PAYBACK: \$700-\$1,000/YR**  
**Avoided Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>: Up to 3,300 lbs./YR**

## \$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

### **SOLAR OPPORTUNITIES SHINE**

*Take advantage of our bountiful sunshine and tax credits to save green and be green.*

March brings us longer days and great weather to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine. But did you know that Mesa gets over 325 sun-drenched days a year? So why, when we look out the airplane window, or view our community with Google Earth, don't we see just as many (or more) solar panels as swimming pools? Here's a cost comparison of installing a pool vs. solar panels:

Expense/Payback	Swimming Pool	Solar Panels
<b>Installation</b>	\$35,000 (in-ground pool)	\$35,000 (5 kW system)
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$750/year	\$50/year (wash panels/inspect)
<b>Costs to Utilities</b> (water & energy)	\$750/year	\$1
<b>Savings</b>	\$0 (does offer pleasure & exercise)	\$700 to \$1,000/year
<b>Payback</b>	A deficit of \$35,000 + \$22,500-\$30,000 for maintenance costs over 15-20 years	Complete payoff of system 15-20 years with rebates

What's the point of this comparison? Going solar can be an expensive investment. But the table above points out something remarkable. A solar purchase is an investment with a payback! It is a sound financial venture and has the additional benefit of reducing your carbon footprint and creating a healthier environment.

### **CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS**

- ☐ **Invest in conservation** before investing in solar and make your home as energy efficient as possible. Visit our Web site to find simple tips to reduce your energy consumption as well as links to SRP, State, and Federal rebates or tax credits: [www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability)
- ☐ **Learn more** by attending our Living Green Workshop on March 12, *Homeowner Basics for Going Solar*. Visit our Web site above or call (480) 644-4400.
- ☐ **Find books** on solar and energy efficiency at the City of Mesa libraries, or visit [www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx](http://www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx).
- ☐ **Check out Mesa's cool public swimming pools** instead of installing a pool and purchase solar panels instead. Find pool locations at [www.mesaaz.gov/parksrec/aquatics/default.aspx](http://www.mesaaz.gov/parksrec/aquatics/default.aspx).

### **Check out these helpful sites for solar information:**

**AZ Solar Energy INDUSTRIES Association (AriSEIA)**

[www.arizonasolarindustry.org](http://www.arizonasolarindustry.org)

**Arizona Solar Center** [www.azsolarcenter.org](http://www.azsolarcenter.org)

**DSIRE (Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency)**: lists state, local, utility and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

[www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)

**Salt River Project (SRP)**

[www.srpnet.com/environment/earthwise/solar](http://www.srpnet.com/environment/earthwise/solar)

### **These sites are helpful when selecting any contractor:**

**Better Business Bureau**

<http://central-northern-western-arizona.bbb.org>

**AZ Registrar of Contractors**

[www.azroc.gov](http://www.azroc.gov)

*Learn to live Green*

More on back →

## HIDDEN INCENTIVES YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

- **Arizona Property Tax Exemption:** Exempts from taxation the amount of the appraised property value that arises from the installation of a solar or other renewable energy system.
- **City of Mesa Energy Improvement Incentive:** Saves you time and money by exempting permit requirements for energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements such as solar systems, HVAC replacements, and water heater replacements.

## START SAVING

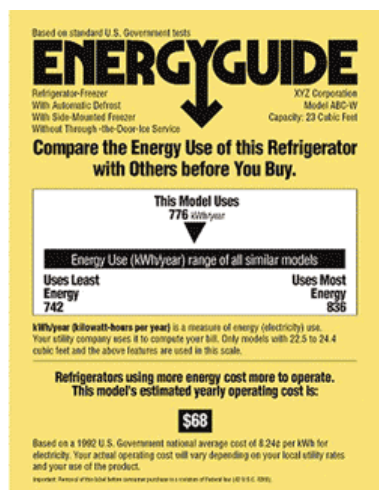
Start saving on your energy bill while doing your part for *building a sustainable community*.

Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at [www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability).



*Note: While SRP is the predominant electric provider for Mesa residents, the City of Mesa supplies electric service to about 16,000 customers in the 5.5 square mile area centered in downtown Mesa. While Mesa currently offers incentives only for natural gas water heaters and pool/spa heaters, we continue to provide educational information and evaluate whether programs such as rebates and other incentives are appropriate. Mesa is currently developing a voluntary rate that would contribute to the electric utility's development of utility-scale solar energy facilities similar to a "community garden". This program will enable customers to sponsor a portion of the electric energy supplies with the most efficient, reliable and economical solar energy technologies.*

*When purchasing any appliance be sure to look for the Energy Star label, indicating that it uses 10-50% less energy than standard models. Think about products having two price tags: The original purchase price and the cost to operate each month.*



*Don't confuse the bright yellow and black label developed by the U.S. Department of Energy with the ENERGY STAR label. EnergyGuide labels feature energy use and operating cost information to help shoppers compare appliance models, while an ENERGY STAR label marks appliances with superior energy efficiency.*

*Learn to live Green*